

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /075 W

----- 078675

R 261140Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9351

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR UNN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, TZ, UN, FR

SUBJECT: COMORAN DELEGATION CONVERS WITH TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 2851 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. A FOUR MAN COMORAN DELEGATION HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ABBAS DJOUSSOUF ARRIVED DAR ES SALAAM AUGUST 23 TO EXPLAIN VIEWS OF NEW COMORAN GOVERNMENT. OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDED PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, AHMED THABIT. DELEGATION TALKED WITH PRESS AND ON AUGUST 25 MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY PRINCIPAL SECRETARY NYKAYI.

2. DJOUSSOUF TOLD PRESS THAT "REVOLUTION" WHICH TOPPLED AHMED ABDALLAH GOVERNMENT ON AUGUST 3 AND INSTALLED PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF SAID MOHAMMED JAFFER WAS THE WORK OF COMORAN PEOPLE AND HAD NOT BEEN INSTIGATED BY FRANCE, AND HE INVITED
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AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO SEND DELEGATIONS TO COMOROS TO VERIFY

THAT NEW GOVERNMENT HAS SUPPORT OF PEOPLE. HE SAID COMOROS EXPECTED TO HOLD CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS WITH FRANCE IN NEAR FUTURE, AND WOULD ASK FRANCE TO RECOGNIZE COMORAN INDEPENDENCE. CONCERNING MAYOTTE ISLAND, HE SAID ITS INHABITANTS WERE WORRIED THAT THEY WOULD BE OPPRESSED UNDER RULE OF ABDALLAH GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT SINCE ABDALLAH OVERTHROWN THEY NO LONGER PREOCCUPIED.

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3. FONOFF OFFICIAL WHO ATTENDED DJOUSSOUF-NYAKYI TALKS TOLD ME PRESS ACCOUNTS CORRECTLY REPORTED WHAT DJOUSSOUF SAID ABOUT COMORAN SITUATION. NYAKYI LISTENED TO DJOUSSOUF AND PROMISED CONVEY HIS MESSAGE TO HIGHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING FONOFF OFFICIAL, DECISION WILL THEN BE MADE ON ATTITUDE TANGOV INTENDS TO TAKE TOWARDS NEW COMORAN REGIME.

4. COMMENT: IN MEETING WITH COMORAN DELEGATION AT ALL, AND ALLOWING VIEWS OF DJOUSSOUF TO BE PRINTED IN SWAHILI-LANGUAGE PRESS, TANGOV SUGGESTS THAT IT SEEKS A WAY OUT OF EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED BY ITS IMMEDIATE ESPOUSAL OF NOW-OUTSTED ABDALLAH REGIME AND ITS JULY 6 "UDI". RECEPTION OF DJOUSSOUF DELEGATION IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO TANGOV'S INITIALLY VERY HOSTILE RECEPTION TO JAFFER GOVERNMENT (REFTEL). NEVERTHELESS, TANGOV IS OBVIOUSLY PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY (AND FONOFF OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT LACK OF HARD INFORMATION ABOUT COMORAN SITUATION IS ONE OF THEIR PROBLEMS). DJOUSSOUF WAS NOT ABLE TO MEET (AS HE HAD PUBLICLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE MIGHT) WITH EITHER FOREIGN MINISTER MALECELA OR PRESIDENT NYERERE. AND, WE NOTE, OFFICIAL SWAHILI-LANGUAGE PRESS ALWAYS REFERS TO DJOUSSOUF AS BWANA (MISTER), WHILE CONTINUING TO CALL THE OUSTED AHMED ABDALLAH NDUGU (COMRADE).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POPULAR SUPPORT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DARES04036
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750295-0151
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750814/aaaaamig.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DAR ES SALAAM 2851
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMORAN DELEGATION CONVERS WITH TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, TZ, FR, UN, (DJOUSSOF, ABBAS), (THABIT, AHMED), (ABDALLAH, AHMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006